



**Steven W. Troxler**  
Commissioner

**North Carolina Department of Agriculture  
and Consumer Services**  
*N.C. Forest Service*



**Scott Bisette**  
Assistant Commissioner

*100 Years of Protecting, Managing & Promoting North Carolina's Forests*

July 27, 2015

Imke & Inge Durre  
100 Coxe Avenue  
Apts. #308 and #410  
Asheville, NC 28801

Dear Imke & Inge Durre:

Thank you for your email dated July 26<sup>th</sup> regarding your online Petition to the City of Asheville supporting the conservation of the wooded area located at 11 Collier Avenue in the South Slope neighborhood. While N.C. Forest Service promotes and encourages the management of the urban forest, municipalities are responsible to manage their property within the constraints of state and local laws. As such, NCFS recognizes the authority of the City of Asheville to follow its established planning procedures. Retaining and managing urban trees takes planning and commitment, and financial wherewithal, which is a challenge for most communities. Unfortunately, I am not aware of any grant programs that could assist with the conservation of this parcel of land. The only grants we provide come from funding provided by the U.S. Forest Service to administer our grant program, and cannot be used for land purchase.

While the N.C. Forest Service cannot financially assist you at this time we do support healthy urban forest canopies, whether it's individual trees shading a street or parking lot, a yard or park, or wherever in the urban landscape they may be. As you are likely aware, healthy urban trees have an intrinsic value due to their ability to help moderate temperatures, reduce wind speed and erosion, help to create cleaner air, and provide aesthetic value to an urban setting. Based on the Tree Evaluation Report by Greenleaf Forest Management, this property appears to have conservation value due to its ecological, aesthetic benefits, and the fact that many of the trees are native to North Carolina and mature, as opposed to the rest of the study area that appear to be smaller, relatively younger, or non-native trees.

I wish you the best of luck in your endeavor to conserve this parcel of land, whether that is through a transfer of ownership to City of Asheville, or by working with the landowner or developer to come to some other resolution. If you are able to come to a resolution and conserve this property the N.C. Forest Service can help you with advice on how to best manage this property for the long term health of the trees.

Sincerely,

Nancy Stairs  
Urban Forestry Program Coordinator  
919.857.4842